**FILM TECHNIQUE QUESTIONS**

**Sample Questions Part A**

**Extract 1**

Question 3

How do film techniques assist in your understanding of their relationship?

* **Close up** of Sami and his mother – in conversation
* We can see Sami lower his eyes in this tense conversation – a sense of respect in a confronting situation. A sense of avoidance too. Tears and mother comforts him at the end of the scene.
* His mother is patient, reasonable, tender. We see her trying hard to explain without being patronising. She listens to his response.
* Cross-cutting between mother and child – equal weighting to each reaction.
* Enclosed – intimate – locked into the conversation. We can see they’re close even though Sami is unhappy.
* We see the characters from each other’s view (over the shoulder).
* Basic colours, sparse setting, tagine on table top, soft, muted tones.
* Mother’s clothing is Algerian in style – geometric pattern of her dress.
* Setting: Housing commission – Spartan setting, clean and neat, respectable.
* Lighting: natural light through window off camera. Soft and diffused
* Soundtrack – sizzling dinner, kids outside playing football, Arabic music (Khaled) in the background. Contrast of coke bottle and fusion Algerian/ French music. Easy listening, domestic sounds are the background to this conversation.
* Dialogue – mother uses some Arabic that is understood – for emphasis, colloquialism for effect.

**Extract 2**

(possible film technique questions)

* How does the setting of the room give us insight into the family’s social standing?
* How is the use of dialogue used to capture Charles’ personality / character?
* What film techniques are used to demonstrate Charles’ duplicity? (Sarkosy vs Rudd)

**Extract 3**

(possible film techniques)

* How do the film techniques illuminate the social class?
* What does the mise en scene tell us about Caroline’s character?
* How is the use of dialogue portraying the multi cultural tone in this scene?
* Justify Caroline’s stereotypical dialogue towards Sami?
* How does the director express Caroline’s social standing in this scene?
* T o what extent is Caroline tolerant of multi-culturalism?
* How does the director use Caroline to express social hierarchy?
* How does the director use this scene to express multi-culturalism?
* How does the film technique reflect Caroline’s world view?
* How does the film technique reflect Caroline’s view of the world?

**Extract 4**

Question 1

What does the décor of Charles’ bedroom reveal about him?

* Picture of Sarkosy on the wall replaced by Charlize Theron - does it signify an end of an era?
* Picture of Rachida Dati who was mentored by Sarkozy – background / comes from the HLM’s
* Photo on wall of Charles and Sarkozy – a possible photoshop / montage to show he wants to be a man of power
* Pg 55 AIS / DEC under the impact of social class = there is a description put together by the AIS / DEC about the décor in Charles’ room
* The colours are opulent = gold and reds, very bourgeois
* Music of Carla Bruni in the background – patronising?

**Extract 5**

Question 3

How does the mise en scene contribute to the atmosphere? (setting)

* Clever aspect of how the scene begins with travail, discipline, réussite.
* Principal talks about the values and the wide angle (pan out) show the authority she has
* The setting demonstrates her status and power –the establishment is behind her
* Discus greek bronze statue
* Photo of the pope
* Pg 59 in AIS / DEC booklet – reference to private catholic school
* St Exupery reference also on pg 59
* The fox and Sami are aligned –shows the hard work that Sami is in for
* An imposing setting, gives the principal a sense of power, quite a distance between Djamila and Sami. Sami does not feel as intimidated as Djamila does
* Djamila’s shot of the face with a wry smile shows that she has learnt to comply, play the “games” where she will not rock the boat as she knows she has no power
* Principal’s words are true to Sarkosy’s statements about “reading your cultural references”.

**Extract 6**

Question 4

How does the mise en scene highlight the differences between Sami and his new class mates?

* Wide shot as Sami enters the class
* Students stand up to show respect
* Sami is ushered in by the principal
* The teachers’ tone and pronunciation is lowered – very patronising “mon petit poussin” diminutives used
* Sami’s dress is informal – not wearing blazer
* Sense of formality of Sami’s clothes vs the class dress
* The class makes fun of Sami, gestures, mock him as he walks to his desk (back of the classroom)
* Sense of alienation, no class mate turns around except
* Sami literally needs to watch his back as Guylan takes the “monoprix” tag out of his jumper and call it out loudly to the class
* Teacher shows no interest – does this show that Sami is NOT yet part of the class? Is she really a figure of authority? See no evil, hear no evil attitude from the teacher

**Extract 7**

(possible film technique questions)

* How do the camera angles reflect the repartee of the film?
* The use of food as a prop in this scene is significant. Discuss.
* Comment on the soundtrack of this scene. Refer to the “metal” sounds used in relation to French etiquette / table manners.
* What do the table manners reveal about the characters at the dining table?
* What do the table manners say / indicate about the family?
* Expectation is that they do not swear at the table, they are not violent – Stanislas is a mixture of “French bourgeoisie” and “HLM” manners at the table. What is the expectation here?
* The meal scene is used as a farce. Explain this.
* How does the body language contribute to the tone of this scene?

**Extract 8**

(possible technique questions)

* How is the conspiracy between Guylain and his friends demonstrated in the background?

Extract 9

Question 3

Compare Sami’s and Charles’ clothing with that of the three Picassos.

* Pg 74 AIS / DEC answer provided under Impact of Social Class / Issues of Tolerance
* American street wear vs French conservative clothing